

Message

From: Stenger, Wren [stenger.wren@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/22/2014 8:19:50 PM
To: Spalding, Susan [Spalding.Susan@epa.gov]; Luthans, William [luthans.william@epa.gov]
Subject: Fw: Border 2020 program new BECC grant awards and STAG funding for border
Attachments: FINAL AZ_Son CA_Baja CA_ Projects Selection (3).doc; PRESS RELEASE Border AZ-CA grants Final For Immediate Release.docx; RCRA STAG Geographic Initiative Region9.docx

From: Scott, Jeff
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 12:17:10 PM
To: Stenger, Wren
Cc: Torres, Tomas; Pimentel, Emily; Nelson, Cheryl; Amaro, Laurie; Schultz, Frances; Barhite, Steven
Subject: FW: Border 2020 program new BECC grant awards and STAG funding for border

Wren-

Again, sorry for the delay. Thanks again for your willingness to take a look at what we are all doing in the border area.

On the RCRA STAG front, as I mentioned we've had a RCRA border specific workplan for both AZ and CA every year for multiple years. Attached is a summary of the recent workplans. This has worked well for us in addressing key waste related border issues. The fact that we maintained this clear set-aside and there is different non-traditional RCRA work (eg., cross-border waste movement inspections, participation on border task forces, etc.) makes the border program stand apart when compared with the other geographic initiatives. We still get a lot of input/pressure etc., to maintain a visible presence on the border generally and on waste issues in particular.

I think your region's input on the STAG distribution issues showed integrity and made sense in that you all weren't necessarily setting aside STAG money for border or other geographic initiatives that met the criteria that HQ reasonably was asking for – ie, show/prove that the geographic initiative should continue because unique additional geographic based work was being done. However, you might want to look at targeting some appropriate work with Texas and New Mexico as we have with CA and AZ both to get border work done and have the geographic set-aside make sense. Given what we have been doing in this area, I will be continuing to advocate that at least the border geographic set-aside continue (I frankly didn't hear or read any compelling reason to maintain the other geographic set-asides).

Also, I've attached FYI our projects funded through the BECC cooperative agreement (utilizing our OITA Border 2020 resource allocation). Region 9 awarded \$461,368 to fund seven projects along the California and Arizona U.S-Mexico border. The funds will be leveraged by an additional \$368,015 in funding from the recipient organizations. Our folks have tried to be "picky" in terms of what we fund to make sure we have meaningful results.

Short summary of this year's grants: Region 9 received 51 proposals requesting \$3.2 million and from these the following seven projects were selected:

- **Imperial County Air Pollution Control District** (Estimate PM and NOx emissions from northbound vehicles and identify emissions reductions strategies)
- **Pronatura, Ensenada** NGO (Restore the upper reach of the Tijuana River, to reduce trash and sediment entering the Tijuana River Estuary in San Diego).
- **Tijuana Calidad de Vida** (Conduct air emissions inventory in City of Nogales to identify and quantify emission sources)
- **Arizona State University** (Estimate particulate matter and nitrogen oxide emissions from northbound idling vehicles and develop emission reduction strategies)
- **Arizona Department of Environment** (Develop and pilot web-based e-waste collection toolkit and divert 100,000 lbs e-waste recycling electronics from landfills)

- **Asociación de Protección y Seguridad Ambiental** (Seminar on practices to reduce metals and cyanide discharges affecting the Nogales international treatment plant)
- **City of Nogales, Sonora** (Expand a used oil collection program for recycling to small business)

I hope all this stuff helps in your discussions. Please feel free to call upon us if we can help. Regardless of what happens on the STAG formula, I look forward to working with you and your team there on border issues in the future.

Best

Jeff

Jeff Scott
Director, Waste Management Division &
Communities & Ecosystems Division
EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne St
San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: (415) 972-3311
Fax: (415) 947-3530

In addition, attached is a short summary of the California and Arizona State work plan commitments, which are funded through the RCRA STAG grant to assist us in fulfilling some of the Border 2020 commitments. Region 9 utilizes the special allocation of RCRA C STAG funding under the Geographic Initiative to fund the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to conduct border inspections, compliance assistance, and support Border 2020 program activities in the border region. The three attachments contain additional details.

Let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.